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ABSTRACT

This bibliographic essay provides a sequence for searching and a list of 60 reference sources useful for retrieving educational research literature. Many of these sources are briefly described in the essay. The bibliography includes reviews of research, bibliographies, indexes, abstracts, yearbooks, dictionairies, and such government publications as the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications and the publications of the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC). Library call numbers and locations in the library of Queens College, Flushing, New York, are included. (RBF)

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EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

A REVIEW OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC TOOLS

by

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The purpose of this paper is to acquaint you with some of the library tools available for carrying out an effective search of the literature in the field of educational research. It presents a core of tools, but does not include all available material. A librarian should be consulted for additional resources that may be of use to you.

Possible sources of information have been divided into three categories: books, journals and special collections. All items are followed by numbers which correspond to the bibliography on pages 7-12. If you search these categories, using the appropriate catalogs, indexes and abstracts, you should be able to cover the entire range of research in your field. But you must be systematic otherwise much time will be wasted in unorganized searching.

Books pertinent to your field may be obtained through use of the card catalog, where material is arranged by author, title and subject. There are numerous reference books which will aid you in your search.

A good starting point is the Encyclopedia of Educational Research (23), which summarizes research on a wide variety of topics. Bibliographic citations follow each topic covered, and suggestions for needed research are included. A subject index appears on yellow pages in the middle of the volume. The Encyclopedia consists of one volume, and is revised every ten years. (A new edition will be published in 1982.) It has been updated by the journal Review of Educational Research (51), which is indexed in the Education Index (20) and in the Current Index to Journals in Education (17). Prior to 1970, the Review of Educational Research published reviews of specific topics once every three years in one of the five issues per volume. Since Volume 40, Number 3, 1970, each issue reviews research on a variety of topics.

Several other reviews of research are useful, such as the Second Handbook of Research on Teaching (54), which presents comprehensive reviews of research on the theory and practice of teaching. The Review of Research in Education (52), a publication of the American Educational Research Association, is an annual series covering a variety of educational fields.

In addition to the general reviews of research, there are many special bibliographies and reviews on specific topics such as the Britannica Review of Foreign Language Education (7), an annual survey of the state of foreign language learning and teaching. Since Volume IV, 1972, the series has continued under the title ACTFL Review of Foreign Language Education (1).

A few examples of bibliographies and reviews in other fields are: Auditory Handicaps and Reading: An Annotated Bibliography (27); The Gifted Student: An Annotated Bibliography (40); Personality and Second Language Learning (30); In Pursuit of Equality of Educational Opportunity: A Selective Bibliography (48); An Annotated Bibliography on Mainstreaming the Hearing-Impaired, the Mentally Retarded and the Visually Impaired in the Regular Classroom (29); Bilingual Schooling in the United States (2); Behavior Modification and the Child: An annotated Bibliography (4); An Introduction to the Cloze Procedure (41).

Additional bibliographies of this type can be located in the card catalog under the appropriate subject, e.g., "READING-BIBLIOGRAPHY."

A useful index to bibliographies is the Bibliographic Index (5), which is a cumulative bibliography of bibliographies.

Research completed in the form of dissertations can be checked in several tools. Masters Theses in Education (34) is an index arranged by

subject areas and alphabetically by author, giving title of research and numerical symbol indicating school at which degree was awarded. It is published annually. Dissertation Abstracts International (19) is a monthly list of doctoral dissertations in all fields of study. (Part A contains dissertations in education). An abstract summarizing the study is provided, plus author's name, title of study, school granting the degree, availability and cost of xerox and microfilm copies. The Comprehensive Dissertation Index 1861-1972 (16) (Education Volumes 20-24) is a keyword index with annual supplements. Under each keyword are listed all dissertations having that word in their titles. Titles are listed chronologically, beginning with the most recent.

The most important source of information on standardized tests is the Mental Measurements Yearbooks (MMY) (8), which contains reviews of tests, as well as bibliographies of pertinent journal articles and related books. The latest edition at this writing is the eighth, published in 1978. Each edition includes some new reviews of tests previously reviewed in older editions. A number of MMY monographs covering specific subject areas have been published: English Tests and Reviews (24); Foreign Language Tests and Reviews (26); Intelligence Tests and Reviews (33); Mathematics Tests and Reviews (43); Personality Tests and Reviews, Personality Tests and Reviews II (11); Reading Tests and Reviews and Reading Tests and Reviews II (10); Science Tests and Reviews (12); Social Studies Tests and Reviews (58); Vocational Tests and Reviews (60).

Tests in Print and Tests in Print II (9) serve as indexes to tests, test reviews and literature on specific tests contained in the first seven volumes of the MMY's.

There are also a number of bibliographies on testing in specific

areas, such as Advances in Psychological Assessment (42); Tests and Measurements in Child Development (35, 36); Tests Used With Exceptional Children: Annotated Bibliography (45); Measures for Psychological Assessment: A Guide to 3,000 Original Sources and Their Applications (15); Evaluating Classroom Instruction: A Sourcebook of Instruments (6). Additional information on tests is also available in the Education Index (20), Current Index to Journals in Education (17), Psychological Abstracts (47), and the ERIC collection (see page 6). A librarian should be consulted for information in other areas.

Definitions of terms are available in numerous sources. Useful dictionaries include: International Dictionary of Education (46); Dictionary of Personnel and Guidance Terms (31); A Dictionary of Administration and Supervision (3); Dictionary of Education (28); A Dictionary of Exceptional Children (37); Dictionary of Reading and Reading Disability Terms (13); Dictionary of Terms and Concepts in Reading (53). The Thesaurus of ERIC Descriptors (22) defines many terms as "scope notes."

The second category of information to be searched is literature contained in journals. Access to this information is provided through indexes and abstracts, which eliminate the tedious job of searching individual issues of the many journals.

A basic reference source for research in the field of education is the Education Index (20), an author-subject index to periodicals, which also includes book reviews, government documents, conference proceedings and yearbooks. During the period 1961-1969 it indexed by subject only. It is published monthly (except July and August), with quarterly and annual cumulations. Many subject headings include the sub-heading "RESEARCH," such as "READING READINESS-RESEARCH."

Current Index to Journals in Education (17) is published monthly, with semi-annual and annual cumulations. The subject headings used are those found in the ERIC system, which will be discussed later. There is some duplication of articles indexed by the Education Index and Current Index to Journals in Education, but not enough to warrant use of one index over the other.

The Social Sciences Citation Index (56) is an important tool, for it not only lists articles by subject, but also indicates where and by whom they have been cited in the literature.

Additional information may be found in the Social Sciences and Humanities Index (55), which has been superseded by two indexes since 1974, the Social Sciences Index (57) and the Humanities Index (32).

There are a number of abstracts important to the field of education and psychology. Child Development Abstracts and Bibliography (14) contains summaries of research on various phases of child development and child psychology. It is arranged by subject, with an author index.

Psychological Abstracts (47) is helpful in obtaining research studies in the areas of learning, child and adolescent psychology and related topics of interest to educators. Published monthly, it is arranged by subject with an author index in the back of each issue. There are cumulative indexes, including semi-annual and annual.

Many other abstracts may be useful to you, such as Mental Retardation Abstracts (44), Exceptional Child Education Resources (25), DSH Abstracts (Deafness, Speech and Hearing) (18), Educational Administration Abstracts (21), LLBA (Language and Language Behavior Abstracts) (38) and Language Teaching and Linguistics: Abstracts (39). You should consult a librarian for any additional indexes and abstracts that may be pertinent to your field.

A third category of information consists of what may be called "special collections." One such source is the rich supply of information published by the United States Government. An important index to this material is the Monthly Catalog of U. S. Government Publications (59), which is arranged alphabetically by issuing agency, with a subject index. A cumulative subject index appears annually.

The most important single source of information for educational research is the ERIC system. ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center) is a national information network operated by the National Institute of Education. Its purpose is to provide ready access to current research results and related information in the field of education. It is a decentralized system in that it is composed of numerous clearinghouses throughout the United States, each one focusing on a major educational field or topic. The clearinghouses collect, index, abstract and disseminate information to Central ERIC where it is published in the form of the monthly abstract journal Resources in Education (RIE) (50). RIE is very broad in scope, for it abstracts research reports, conference proceedings, bibliographies, professional papers, curriculum bulletins, doctoral dissertations and many types of unpublished materials. Information concerning the ERIC collection is contained in the pamphlet HOW TO USE ERIC, which is available in the Education Library.

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